

Columbia County Board of Commissioners Meeting  
September 16, 2003  
Evans Government Center Auditorium  
Evans, Georgia

Chairman Ron Cross called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Others present at the meeting included:

Vice-Chairman Tom Mercer  
Browning

Commissioner Mark Devoti

Commissioner Diane Ford

County Administrator Steve Szablewski

County Attorney Doug Batchelor

County Clerk Phebe Dent

Members of the press and general public

Planning/Development Services Director

Water and Sewer Services Director Clayton

Finance Director DeLoach

Management Services Director Glover

Construction and Maintenance Director Lear

Community and Leisure Services Director Smith

Emergency Services Director Tucker

Reverend Cynthia Taylor, Church of the Holy Comforter, gave the invocation.

Chairman Cross declared a quorum with four present (80%). Commissioner Steve Brown was not present.

- Approval of the following Board of Commissioner minutes:
  - Vice-Chairman Mercer made the motion to approve the August 19, 2003 Board of Commissioners meeting, and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion that was unanimous.
  - Vice-Chairman Mercer made the motion to approve the August 28, 2003 Called Board of Commissioners meeting and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion. Chairman Cross, Vice-Chairman Mercer, and Commissioner Ford approved the motion, and Commissioner Devoti abstained. Motion carried
  - Vice-Chairman Mercer made the motion to approve the September 2, 2003 Board of Commissioners meeting, and Commissioner Devoti seconded the motion. Motion carried
- Approval of the following Public Hearing meeting minutes:
  - Vice-Chairman Mercer made the motion to approve the August 19, 2003 Rollback Public Hearing, and Commissioner Devoti seconded the motion that was unanimous.
  - Vice-Chairman Mercer made the motion to approve the August 25, 2003 Increase in Occupational Tax License Fees Public Hearing, and Commissioner Devoti seconded the motion that was unanimous.
  - Vice-Chairman Mercer made the motion to approve the August 28, 2003 Rollback

Public Hearing at 8:30 a.m., and Commissioner Devoti seconded the motion. Chairman Cross, Commissioner Devoti and Commissioner Ford abstained. Motion carried.

- Vice-Chairman Mercer made the motion to approve the August 28, 2003 Rollback Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m., and Commissioner Devoti seconded the motion. Chairman Cross, Vice-Chairman Mercer, and Commissioner Ford approved the motion, and Commissioner Devoti abstained. Motion carried.

County Administrator Szablewski read the agenda as presented. Chairman Cross deleted Item H.4.g., *BellSouth Option and Lease Agreement*, and added G.7., *Columbia County Recipient of Home Land Security Grant*. Vice-Chairman Mercer made the motion to approve the amended agenda, and Commissioner Devoti seconded the motion that was unanimous.

## **PRESENTATIONS, DECLARATION, AND/OR SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

- Chairman Cross recognized former Board of Commission Chairman Jim Whitehead, Harlem Mayor Scott Dean, and County Coroner Tommy King.
- Finance Division Director DeLoach presented the award for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for fiscal year ended, June 30, 2002. Columbia County

was awarded *The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* for the fifth consecutive year.

- Finance Division Director DeLoach presented the 2003/2004 *Budget Bits* and presented a copy to each Commissioner. The *Budget Bits* is a brief synopsis of the County's financial report. Copies of this report are available upon request from the Financial Division.
- Commissioner Ford presented a gift of appreciation to Finance Division Director DeLoach for her competent, efficient, and excellent oversight of the Financial Division and the County's financial records for the last seven years. She has set and reached high standards in the management of the County's finances and has been awarded the CAFR for the last five years. Ms. Ford and the other Board members value her as an employee of Columbia County Government.
- Commissioner Ford presented a plaque to Mr. Ed Brannon, Building Inspection, for being selected as Employee of the Month for September 2003. Commissioner Ford and Building Inspection Supervisor Alpin praised Mr. Brannon for his support to others, thorough completion of tasks assigned, professional attitude, and work ethics.
- Ms. Erica Dean, Animal Control Board member, gave a presentation in favor of Resolution 03-344R, *Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Columbia County, Georgia, to Establish the Schedule of Fees for Cremation of Animal Remains in the*

*Incinerator at Animal Care and Control.* She stated the County initiated this Resolution to benefit the taxpayers of Columbia County, did confirm there was not an animal cremation business in Columbia County, and the Animal Care and Control Manager and staff are quite capable of providing these services with integrity and respect to the owners of the deceased pet.

- Mr. John Glave gave a presentation in opposition to Resolution 03-344R stating it was unfair to require the Animal Care and Control staff with such a sensitive and emotional issue. He recommended the incinerator be operated to the nearest maximum load capability to decrease the per pound cost of incineration to the minimum possible.
- Emergency Services Director Tucker informed the Board that Columbia County was awarded the GEMA Homeland Security grant in the amount of \$448,000 to purchase a mobile command van used in disaster control. Surrounding counties will be able to use it as well.

## **NEW BUSINESS – CONSET AGENDA**

- **Community and Emergency Services Committee**
  - Approve the appointment of the following individuals to the Local Emergency Planning Committee:
    - Ø Lt. Wayne Kent, Grovetown Department of Public Safety, 306 East Robinson

Avenue, Grovetown, Georgia, to fulfill the unexpired term of Chief Al Robinson,  
Ø TaVonda Johnson, Kennametal IPG, 470 Old Evans Road, Evans, Georgia, to fulfill the unexpired term of Melissa Olson, and  
Ø Todd Baldwin, Harlem Fire Department, P. O. Box 782, Harlem, Georgia, to fulfill the unexpired term of Chief Raymond Fulcher. **Approved**

- Approve funding \$500, from the Hotel/Motel Contingency Fund 2200-2200-0305-0021, to the Southeastern Paralyzed Veterans Association, Inc. This funding will help sponsor the Bass Tournament at the Fort Gordon Recreation Area from October 10-12, 2003. **Approved**
- Approve the addendum to the Maintenance Proposal submitted by Preferred Landscape Management to maintain the area around Building "C" at a cost of \$800 per month funded through line code 1111-4008-0524-0000. **Approved**
- Approve the transfer of \$2,500 from the Hotel/Motel Fund 2200-2200-0565-0015 to the Recreation Advisory Board Enhancement Fund 2111-4611-0666-0000. The \$2,500 is the partial payment for the Fourth of July fireworks held at Patriots Park. **Approved**
- Approve the transfer of \$5,000 from the Recreation Department line code 111-4611-

0420-000 to the Recreation Advisory Board Enhancement Fund line code 2111-4611-0666-0000 for partial payment toward the Fourth of July fireworks held at Patriots Park.  
**Approved**

- Approve Chairman Cross' nomination of Mr. Gene Hair to the Recreation Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Chris Eckert until December 31, 2007. **Approved**

- Approve the *Agreement for the Provision of Services Between Columbia County and the City of Harlem*. The cost to fund the Oliver Hardy Festival in October 2003 would be \$4,000 funded through Hotel/Motel Fund line code 2200-2200-0565-0015.  
**Approved**

- **Management and Financial Services Committee**

- Approve the contract from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for participation in the paving of Old Berzelia Road in the Amount of \$59,451.44 funded through line code 3500-6203-0684-0002-6203-1000. **Approved**

- Approve the amendment to the May 28, 2003 Board of Commissioners meeting minutes as follows: Page 1, under Presentation of Proposed Budget for FY2003-2004, fifth bullet changing the Sheriff's Office special pay rate from .075 to 0.75 per hour.  
**Approved**

- Approve the modification to the *Procurement Policy* to reduce the number of weeks

of advertising from four weeks to two weeks for public works projects under \$100,000 and reducing the advertising of all roadway projects from four weeks to two weeks.

**Approved**

– Award RFP 2003-050 for dental benefits to AIG/American General as the County's dental insurance provider at a project cost of \$287,540.16 funded through the entire department personnel benefit line codes. **Approved**

- Award RFP 2003-060 for the IBM iSeries Upgrade as detailed in RFP 2003-060 for a cost of \$100,801 funded through line code 3111-4410-0814-0000. **Approved**

- **Planning and Development Services Committee**

**Planning Commission**

- Approve the abandonment of drainage and utility easements between Lots 35 and 36 of Kiokee Ridge Subdivision, Section IV in order to replat the two lots into one large 5.14 acres lot. **Approved**

- Approve the abandonment of existing easements and acceptance of new drainage and utility easements between Lots 45 and 46, Block A of Amherst Subdivision, Phase 4, Section 2 to construct a house. The proposed lot line move would leave adequate space on Lot 46 for home construction. **Approved**



- Approve the *Operator License* to Mary Dixon at Therapeutic Essentials of Augusta, LLC located at 3685 Old Petersburg Road, Martinez, Georgia. **Approved**
- Approve the *Massage Therapist License* to Mary Dixon at Therapeutic Essentials of Augusta, LLC located at 3685 Old Petersburg Road. **Approved**
- Approve the *Operator License* for Barbara Mershon at Therapeutic Essentials of Augusta, LLC located at 3685 Old Petersburg Road. **Approved**
- Approve the *Massage Therapist License* to Barbara Mershon at Therapeutic Essentials of Augusta, LLC located at 3685 Old Petersburg Road. **Approved**

### **From Planning Commission**

- Approve the rezoning request from Jim Whitehead to rezone Parcel 072 053 on the south side of Washington Road across from the Centre at Evans, from Neighborhood Commercial (C-1) to C-2 with the following conditions.
  - Ø An existing GDOT project is underway to widen and reconstruct Washington Road with median along this property frontage. Additional ROW may be required.
  - Ø Access to Washington Road to be approved by GDOT
  - Ø Applicant should consult with the health department if septic disposal is used.

Ø Regional detention in conjunction with planned commercial development under review. Otherwise, on-site detention will be required. **Approved**

- Approve the rezoning request from Rudy Bohler to rezone a portion of parcel 074A 034 on the south side of Park West Drive, east side of C.D.P. Industrial Boulevard from Light Industrial (M-1) to General Commercial (C-2) and Apartment Residential (A-R) with the following conditions:

Ø Sight distance should meet 2001 AASHTO requirements.

Ø The site lies in the Butler creek and Euchee Creek Drainage Basins. On-site detention will be required. Site plans shall be submitted and approved by the County Engineer.

Ø Brookwood elementary, Columbia Middle, and Evans High Schools currently serve this zone. Additional development in the area will continue to lead to capacity issues in these schools.

Ø Subdivision of the tract must conform to Section 74-43 of the code, with the need for the installation of a private or public road to serve the interior of the tract for the apartments, as the tract requires a minimum of 100 feet of road frontage.

Ø Access could be shared with the adjoining commercial tracts to avoid multiple curb cuts onto Park West Drive. **Approved**

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- **Public Works Services Committee**

- Accept the drainage and utility easements along with the temporary construction

easement to allow access for construction and maintenance of Reed Creek at Blue Ridge Drive. **Approved**

- Award Rem-Con, LLC the Jennings Road drainage improvement project in an amount not to exceed \$17,237.76 funded through line code 5200-5200-0817-0000-6101-0003. **Approved**

- Proceed with the Public Information Meeting in Jefferson County, and afterwards, submit a *Sludge Management Plan* with the Department of Natural Resources. The budget impact will be \$200,000 funded through line code 5111-9200-0528-0000. **Approved**

- Approve the Change Order for the Park West Drive pipe replacement project in an amount not to exceed \$2,283.18 funded through 5200-5200-0817-6101-0002. **Approved**

- Approve and execute the Change Order proposal for the Shady Grove drainage improvement project in an amount not to exceed \$5,976 funded through 5200-5200-0817-6101-0004. **Approved**

- Accept the low bid from Holt & Mahone for improvements to the Reed Creek Water Pollution Control Plant in the amount of \$884,997 and the July 1, 2003 Board of Commissioners minutes be corrected to reflect the corrected low bid amount which

would still be the lowest bid submitted funded through 5111-9800-0900-2000-9800-1003. **Approved**

- Approve the *Encroachment Agreement* between 3AM,LLC, for the encroachment of a carport onto a sanitary sewer easement at 318 Evans Lake Way as shown on a plat prepared by James G. Swift and Associates dated August 15, 2003. **Approved**

- Approve Change Order 1 with Thamer Construction in the amount of \$209,879.39 funded through line code 5111-9800-0900-2000-9800-0005. **Approved**

- Award the contract to install a regional pump station in the River Island Development to Tommy Griffin Plumbing and Heating contingent on the contractor depositing his portion of the funding which would be \$139,384 and the County's portion would be \$91,330 funded through line code 5111-9700-0700-0000-9700-0171. **Approved**

- Approve a contract with Georgia Power for Pole relocation on Parham Road at the CSX Railroad Crossing for the estimated cost of \$11,784 funded from the 2001-2005 SPLOST through line code 3500-6203-0684-0002-6203-1000. **Approved**

- Accept the permanent easement option in the amount of \$441.50 from Leatrice G. Green on Hardy Road funded from the 2001-2005 SPLOST through line code 3500-6203-0684-0014-6203-1000. **Approved**

- Approve Change Order 1 for Lewiston Chamblin Connector Road between the Development Authority and Reeves Construction in the amount of \$34,960 funded through line code 3500-6205-0684-0002-6205-4000. **Approved**
  
- Approve a *Local Government Participation Agreement* for GDOT project STP-0004-00 (586) to upgrade traffic signals at 11 intersections in Columbia County for a cost of \$123,900 from the 2001-2005 SPLOST through line code 3500-6203-1002. **Approved**
  
- Authorize the Chairman to sign the *Relocation Agreement* with Georgia Power for pole relocation on SR232 at Crawford Creek in the Amount of \$14,730 from the 201-2005 SPLOST line code 3500-6203-0684-0002-6203-2007. **Approved**
  
- Approve a ten-foot permanent utility easement for BellSouth on Ronald Reagan Drive. **Approved**
  
- Approve the adjustments and change orders for Building “C” as follows:
  - Ø Steel beams and additional brace supports - \$3,795,
  - Ø Additional panic and door release buttons - \$1,562.82,
  - Ø Additional sod for southwest and southeast sides of Building “C” - \$6,000,
  - Ø Electrical support for computer room move - \$500,

- Ø Excavation of existing water line - \$814.31,
- Ø Relocation of exterior door 002A\$1,086.70, and
- Ø Addition of enunciator panel for Building “C” generator - \$2550.

For a total of \$16,258.83 funded through line code 3500-6202-0684-0002-6202-2001.

**Approved**

- Accept improvements for Knob Hill, Section IV, along with the road, storm sewer collection, water and sanitary sewer systems including rights-of-way and easements associated along with these improvements as depicted on a plat prepared by James Swift and Associates filed in the Engineering Department. **Approved**

- Accept improvements for Highgrove at Williamsburg, Section I-B, along with the road, storm sewer collection, water and sanitary sewer systems, including rights-of-way, and easements associated with these improvements as depicted on a plat prepared by Cranston, Robertson and Whitehurst, P.C., filed in the Engineering Department.

**Approved**

- Approve the installation of an additional streetlight in the cul-de-sac at the end of Sapelo Drive in Hardy Pointe Subdivision at a total cost of \$390 funded through line code 2112-4510-0465-0000. **Approved**

- Approve the installation of an additional streetlight on Willowood Road in Clairmont Subdivision at a total cost of \$1,418.81 funded through line code 2112-4510-0465-0000.

- Accept the Erosion and Sediment Control Enforcement actions wherein there were 38 warning notices and no citations issued for erosion and sediment control violations during the month of July. **Accepted as Information**
- Accept the *Right-of-Way Deed* from Martin L. Jackson for the paving of Granderson Road. **Approved**
- Approve Resolution 03-348R, *Resolution Authorizing Request for and Acceptance of Donations of Necessary Property and/or Easements and Right-of-Way for the Douglas Road Paving Project.* **Approved**

Vice-Chairman Mercer made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion that was unanimous.

## **DEBATE AGENDA - UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- **Community and Emergency Services Committee**
  - Commissioner Devoti made the motion to approve as a second and final reading of Ordinance 03-13, *Ordinance of the Board of Commissioners of Columbia County, Georgia, Amending Section 14-12 "Public Nuisance Animal" of the Code of Ordinances of Columbia County, Georgia, To Provide for an Effective Date and To Repeal Any*

*Conflicting Ordinances.* Vice-Chairman Mercer seconded the motion that was unanimous. **Approved as a second and final reading**

– Commissioner Devoti made the motion to approve as a second and final reading Resolution 03-344R, *Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Columbia County, Georgia, To Establish the Schedule of Fees for Cremation of Animal Remains in the Incinerator at Animal Care and Control.* Vice-Chairman Mercer seconded the motion and discussion followed. Chairman Cross opposed the motion, and Vice-Chairman Mercer, Commissioner Devoti, and Commissioner Ford approved the motion. Motion carried. **Approved as a second and final reading.**

– Commissioner Devoti made the motion to approve as a second and final reading Resolution 03-346R, *Resolution of the Columbia County Board of Commissioners of Columbia County, Georgia, Authorizing and Setting Forth Rates for the Eubank Blanchard Community Center.* Vice-Chairman Mercer seconded the motion and discussion followed. Motion was unanimous. **Approved as a second and final reading**

## **DEBATE AGENDA NEW BUSINESS**

- **Community and Emergency Services Committee**

– Commissioner Devoti made the motion to approve as a first reading Resolution 03-350R, *Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Columbia County, Georgia, Amendment to Wildwood Park Fee Schedule.* Vice-Chairman Mercer seconded the



motion and discussion followed. Motion was unanimous. **Approved as a first reading**

- **Management and Financial Services Committee**

- Commissioner Ford made the motion add a section to the Financial Management Policy entitled *Section XV.F Financial and Management Review of New Programs*. Commissioner Devoti seconded the motion that was unanimous. **Approved**

- Commissioner Ford made the motion to authorize the County Attorney to prepare the *Hold Harmless Agreement*, set fees, and write a resolution to allow the Coroner to provide transportation to GBI Crime Labs if requested by other counties. Commissioner Devoti seconded the motion that was unanimous. **Approved**

- Commissioner Ford made the motion to award RFP 2003-049 Health and Medical Benefits to United Healthcare as the Medical Benefit Provider FY2004 at a project cost of \$4,451,717 funded through line code 6000-8000-0501-0000/6000-8001-0501-0000. Commissioner Devoti seconded the motion and discussion followed. Motion was unanimous. **Approved**

- **Planning and Development Services Committee**

**From the Planning and Development**

- Vice-Chairman Mercer made the motion to approve as a first reading Ordinance 03-12, *Ordinance of the Board of Commissioners of Columbia County, Georgia Amending Subsection 78-140(A), Tax Levied, of the Code of Ordinances of Columbia County, Georgia, To Provide for an Effective Date and To Repeal Any Conflicting Ordinances.* Commissioner Ford seconded the motion and discussion followed. Motion was unanimous. **Approved as a first reading**

- **Public Works Service Committee**

- Commissioner Ford made the motion to approve the proposed *Speed Up Program Policy Manual* that will be made a part of the permanent minute records. Commissioner Devoti seconded the motion and discussion followed. Motion was unanimous.  
**Approved**

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PARTICIPATION**

- Mr. Richard Poythness, 371 Waltons Ford Road, Grovetown Georgia, recommended to the Board that when RFP's are written for the provision of medical packages, the County include within the RFP requiring the medical firm release quotes to local agents or brokers to give them the opportunity to service the medical/dental/insurance offered to the County employees. Discussion followed Mr. Poythness' concerns on this issue.

- Mr. Mike Rorick, P. O. Box 20424, Martinez, Georgia, asked the Board as to whether or not the Corps of Engineers have started to test the water where the Reed Creek Diversionary Canal work is being done. The Board said they would have Engineering and Environmental Services Director Leiper or Procurement Manager Woodlief get back in touch with

him on this subject.

There was no further business to discuss; therefore, Vice-Chairman Mercer made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m., and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion.

Signature on file – Approved October 7, 2003

Minutes approved by Chairman Ron C. Cross

Signature on file – Approved October 7, 2003  
Minutes attested by County Clerk Phebe Dent